

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph 22 as follows:

The compressible medium 17 disposed within the layers of the variable spring member 10 can be of any type known to a worker skilled in the art. Compressible medium may be a fluid, ~~such as hydraulic fluid,~~ or may also comprise a gas. The specific type of compressible medium is determined according to the required overall stiffness of the variable spring member assembly 10. It is within the contemplation of this invention that any compressible substance can be used with this invention in combination with other compressible medium to provide the desired spring stiffness.

Please amend paragraph 32 as follows:

Referring to Figure 4, yet another embodiment of the variable spring member is shown at 80 and includes first and second layers 82, 84. A first attachment member 94 and a second attachment member 96 move relative to the housing 86. The first attachment member 94 and the second attachment member 96 transmit input energy to the first and second layers 82, 84. Housing 86 defines a chamber 88 including plate 98. The plate 98 move vertically within the chamber 88 and separate the compressible medium 83 and electro-reactive medium 85 within layers 82, 84. A coil assembly 90 installed adjacent layer 84 of electro-reactive medium 85 responds to signals from controller 92. The controller 92 adjusts physical characteristics of the electro-reactive medium 85 varying compressibility of the layer 84. Adjustments of the physical properties of the electro-reactive medium 85 changes the compressibility of the electro-reactive layer 84 thereby varying the stiffness of the variable spring member 80.